

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

February 2000

CONGRATULATIONS

- to Bernard Roberts who is part of a collaboration which has obtained a two year NATO grant of 300,000 Belgium Francs (about 4,500 pounds). The grant is to support research work on “Nonlinear and non-adiabatic magnetohydrodynamic waves in solar coronal structures”. The collaboration is between St Andrews, Warwick, Lublin (Poland) and Palma de Mallorca. The coordinator of the grant is Dr Jose Luis Ballester, based in the Department of Physics, Universitat de les Illes Balears (Palma).
-

WELCOME

- to Daniel Stahl, who joins RUWPA this month. Daniel has a PhD in Biology from University of Tübingen, Germany, and recently completed a postgraduate course in Biometry at the Mibeg Institute at Tübingen.
 - to Karen Kennedy who has recently been appointed the post of Librarian in the Mathematics and Physics Library.
-

NEWS

- Bernard Roberts organised a one day Discussion Meeting at the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS), London, 14 January 2000, on the topic “Magnetic wave phenomena in the solar atmosphere”. His co-organiser for the meeting was Robert von Fay-Siebenburgen, formerly a Research Assistant in the Solar Theory Group but now a Lecturer in Applied Mathematics at the University of Sheffield. Bernard was the chairman of the morning session, subjecting all and sundry to the tail end of his flu! Some eleven

talks were presented and there were also a number of posters; additionally, one talk on a topic connected with the solar atmosphere discussion was given as part of the Ordinary Meeting of the RAS. Contributions from Solar Group members included: Michael Ruderman discussing “Nonlinear resonant waves”, Robert Walsh who talked about “Oscillations and activity around active region 8496”; Valery Nakariakov (now a lecturer at Warwick) discussed “Coronal seismology and MHD autowaves”. Posters were presented by Claire Foullon (“Waves on a magnetic slab at the base of the convection zone”) and Ineke de Moortel (“Observation of oscillations in active region loops”). Tony Arber and Keith Bennett also attended the meeting.

- Alex Craik gave a seminar on “Some Aspects of Second-harmonic Resonance” at Tottori University on 31 January. Tottori is renowned for its huge sand-dunes, coastal scenery and very snowy winters, all of which were experienced; also the local delicacy of crabs, both cooked and uncooked. During 14-16 February, he attended a Symposium on “Singularities Arising in Flows and Waves” at the International Institute for Advanced Studies at Takanohara, near Nara. This was organised, in part, as a (very early!) farewell to Alex. Roger Grimshaw, now at Loughborough, also attended by invitation. Alex gave the opening lecture, a variant on his Tottori seminar. The very new hotel where participants stayed was notable for its ‘record-breaking’ sundial, which was certainly very large and quite accurate. A further seminar trip to Kyushu University in Fukuoka is planned for early March. Alex returns to St Andrews on 1 April.

SEMINARS

- Solar Group Seminars (Math. Rm 3B - 1.30pm)
 - Wednesday 1 March Bernie Roberts “Coronal Seismology”
 - Wednesday 8 March Gordon Petrie
 - Wednesday 15 March Clare Parnell
- Informal Analysis Seminar (Math. Rm 1A - 3pm)
 - Tuesday 29th February M H Escardo “Continuous lattices in analysis and topology (I)”

- Tuesday 7th March M H Escardo “Continuous lattices in analysis and topology (II)”
 - Statistics Seminar (Math. L.T. B - 4pm)
 - Monday 28th February M Bravington (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft) “Clumps and bumps: dealing with clustered cetacean sightings”
 - Monday 6th March M Scott (University of Glasgow) “Experiences in environmental model assessment”
 - Monday 14th March G Marion (University of Strathclyde) “Stochastic modelling and environmental variation in biological populations”
-

NEXT ISSUE

- Please send any material for the next newsletter to mcsnews@mcs by 12pm Thursday 23th March.